



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,428	02/19/2002	Yi-Shan Chu	ACR0058-US	2308
28970	7590	12/02/2003	EXAMINER	
SHAW PITTMAN IP GROUP 1650 TYSONS BOULEVARD SUITE 1300 MCLEAN, VA 22102			LEE, WILSON	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2821	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/076,428

Applicant(s)

CHU ET AL.

Examiner

Wilson Lee

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-19,21 and 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-10,19,21 and 22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12,13 and 15-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Remarks

For clarification, claims 3 and 20 are canceled.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 11/12/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a decoupling capacitor electrically coupled between the secondary side of the transformer and the discharge lamp) is not recited in the rejected independent claim 11. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacobs et al. (6,091,616).

Regarding Claim 11, Jacobs discloses an ignition system (See Figure 3), comprising:

- an inverter wherein the inverter comprises:

- a transformer (T1) with the secondary side thereof electrically coupled to the Vout (See Figure 3);
- a first switch transistor (320) having a first current-conducting terminal (source) and a second current-conducting terminal (drain) with the first current-conducting terminal (source) being electrically coupled to the primary side (S1) of the transformer (T1);
- a second switch transistor (315) having a first current-conducting terminal (drain) and a second current-conducting terminal (source) with the first current-conducting terminal (drain) being electrically coupled to the primary side (S1) of said transformer (T1);
- a reset capacitor (325) (See Col. 9, lines 51-56) electrically coupled between a second current-conducting terminal (drain) of the first switch transistor (320) and a second current-conducting terminal (source) of the second switch transistor (315); and
- a control circuit (380) for generating two switch control signals in response to a voltage feedback signal representing the current value at the secondary side (S2) of the transformer (T1) and respectively outputting to the gate of the first switch transistor and the gate of said second switch transistor (315) to thereby cause the first switch transistor (320) and the second switch transistor (315) not to conduct current at the same time.

As discussed above, Jacobs essentially discloses the claimed invention but fails to explicitly disclose the load being a lamp. However, since Jacobs does not limit the

choice of the specific load, the implementation of using such load (e.g. lamp) is not restricted or prohibited in his invention. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt a lamp as a load in Jacobs in order to obtain a desired illumination by utilizing the voltage regulator of Jacobs.

Regarding Claim 14, Jacobs discloses that the control circuit (380) comprises a driving circuit that utilizes the voltage across the reset capacitor (325) as driving power for generating the two switch control signals.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 12, 13, 15-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 19, 21 and 22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art neither discloses nor suggests:

- A decoupling capacitor electrically coupled to the secondary side of the transformer such as required by claim 1;
- The control circuit comprising a driving circuit which utilizes the voltage across the reset capacitor as driving power for generating two switch control signals respectively outputted to the first switch transistor and the second switch capacitor so as to reduce the conducting resistance such as required by claim 19.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

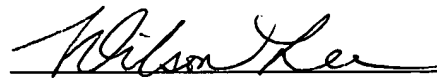
Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Wilson Lee whose telephone number is (703) 306-3426.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Art Unit: 2821

Papers related to Technology Center 2800 applications may be submitted to Technology Center 2800 by facsimile transmission. Any transmission not to be considered an official response must be clearly marked "DRAFT". The Technology Center Fax number is (703) 308-7722 or (703) 308-7724.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wilson Lee", written over a horizontal line.

Wilson Lee
Primary Examiner
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

WL
12/1/03